

SENIOR SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Middletown Senior Center

150 William Street

April 5, 2011

5:00 PM

1. Members Present: Councilman David Bauer, Councilman Ron Klattenberg, Commissioners: Annabelle Malone, Pat Jackowski, Phyllis Pollock and Ed Rubacha

Absent: Ed Dypa, Cheryl Jackson, William Wasch

Staff Present: Raymond A. Santostefano, Interim Senior Center Director, Interim Program Manager, Stephan Allison and Heidi Geores, Senior Center Staff

General Public: None

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 5:05.

3. Public Hearing: None

4. Approval of October Minutes: Motion was made by Councilman Bauer and seconded by Commissioner Malone to approve Minutes of the March 1, 2011 meeting. Minutes approved.

Departmental Reports:

Director Raymond A. Santostefano:

- March 7, 2011, the City of Middletown officially purchased St. Sebastian School for the site of the new Senior Center.
- A repair was made to the handicapped door of the Senior Center
- Water was off in the building for a ½ day due to a leak of resolved without having to cancel programs.
- Friday afternoon dinners continue - \$3.00 per person. Average attendance to the dinner is about 40 participants. Checked with the Health Dept. about giving out food at the dinner and can continue as long as people are educated about need for refrigeration as shelf life is 4 hours.
- Request for funding has been submitted to Senior Resources for money to support Health Screenings, Transportation and Dental Programs. Chris Bourne has completed the grant writing for \$9,700.00 and will present the grant in June. Grant will be voted on by Senior Resources in July 2011.
- Recommendation that custodian move over to the new Senior Center with transition. One custodian should be sufficient for needs. May need to add a part time position if there are evening activities.
- There was a complaint about the Senior Center vestibule being untidy. There is now a Senior Center inspection Form to ensure all areas are reviewed.
- The Mayor has sent a letter to MAT to request a dedicated bus loop from the Senior Apartment Complexes for ease to get to the new Senior Center.

Program Updates – Stephan Allison

- There is increasing activity with more people/agencies offering and willing to sponsor and provide programming to the Senior Center.
- Vinal Technical High School will be providing a free computer course for seniors regarding Information Technical Services and it is almost filled.
- The Senior Center will use it's discretion in opening vacancies to underage disabled individuals to fill vacancies in bus trips (usually those over 50 years old). Should seats be available after registration has ended, the designated housing unit will have the opportunity to fill the bus with underage disabled individuals in their unit before sending the list to the Center.

Old Business

➤ Update on New Senior Center –

- Councilman Ron Klattenberg reported there are four sub-committees for the Building Committee: Senior Programs, Department Space, Finance and Preparation of the RFP for the architect.
- Councilman Klattenberg further stated he was approached for a potential fundraising opportunity: a Golf Tournament to benefit the Senior Center. Will explore a mechanism to provide a way for people to donate money for Senior Programs/Senior Center use.
- Councilman Phil Pessina requested a block grant for \$100K to address some of the ADA compliance factors for the new Senior Center.

➤ Update on Triad –

- Triad yellow Dot Program session held on March 22 at Water's Edge from 9:00 – 11:00 AM was not largely attended. Sign-up continues to be available at the Senior Center during business hours.
- Commissioner Jackowski reported seeing a clip on Eyewitness News that the New Britain Triad was sponsoring a "Senior Prom" to help fund their efforts and wondered if this might be replicated in Middletown.
- The Triad continues to try to raise funds by collecting used cell phones for recycling. Drop off sites are at People's Bank, The Day Club – adult day care center on Miner Street and the Senior Center.

New Business:

- The present office space allocation on the plans from the architect are conceptual and may need to be adjusted for logistical reasons. Needs identified will be giving to the architect. This will include the office space for the Municipal Agent and a Computer Lab
- Commissioner Dypa emailed an inquiry regarding congregate meals and questioned if Sbona Towers could remain a congregate meal site once there is the move to the new Senior Center. CRT reports it is expected budget cuts and there is no budget for 2 locations. The current agreement is with the Senior Center, not the Housing Authority, but that could be altered if needed.
- The appliances in the kitchen are scheduled to transfer to the new Senior Center.
- The City's annual Youth Health and Safety Day has been set for Saturday, June 11, 2011 and will be renamed Youth and Senior Health and Safety Day.

Miscellaneous:

- Councilman Bauer discussed the fact that the current lease is up with the Housing Authority as of July 23, 2011. As the new Senior Center renovations take place, Councilman Bauer proposed the following motion, seconded by Councilman Klattenberg: The Senior Service Commission Recommends having the City Attorney work to extend the current lease for the Senior Center with the Middletown Housing Authority for a period of 1 year. The motion passed unanimously.
- On Thursday, April 14, 2011, there will be a meeting of the Geriatrics Community Advisory Committee for the formation of a Geriatrics Healthcare and Social Services Resource Guide at Middlesex Hospital from 10:00 – 11:30 AM in the North 1 Conference Room. Please RSVP to Catherine_rees@midhosp.org by April 7, 2011.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Jackowski, Commissioner